

THE STATE SENATE.

WHAT IT HAS DONE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

The Privilege Tax to be made as it is—
The Public Printing Bill Passed Other Matters.

A proposition to commemorate the convention which took South Carolina out of the Union was made to the senate by Wade Hampton chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, Monday, 24th instant Senator Sloan, in behalf of Mrs. Adeline Pope Stoney, Mrs. S. A. Richardson, Mrs. J. S. Flinn, Miss I. D. Martin and Mrs. M. Girardeau, requested the concurrent action, permission of the general assembly to erect in the corridor between the senate chamber and the hall of the house a marble tablet in commemoration of such notable historical events and persons as are cherished by all patriots, in their disinterested devotion to the cause of the Union, and to the preservation of its architectural surroundings, and as an ornament as well as a record. It was stated that the tablet would contain the names of the members of the secession convention.

Mr. Sloan also presented at the same time a petition of the patriotic association of ladies, praying the general assembly to have erected around the Confederate monument in front of the state house a suitable iron railing to protect it from mutilation by passing vehicles.

Both propositions were referred to committees to consider and report. When the bill providing for the letting of the public printing on contract was reached an effort was made to have the consideration of it postponed, but Mr. Moore insisted upon immediate action and it was passed to its third reading.

The bill to extend the time for the payment of the communication road tax elicited the only debate of the day but it was finally passed.

Mr. Henderson has taken county included in the bill allowing only twenty-five cents per day for dining purposes.

In the Senate Tuesday Mr. Buist's bill defining and regulating primary elections of political parties in South Carolina coming up for its final reading. Mr. Buist briefly urged passage of the bill, but he had several objections to the bill which he had heard expressed the other day and thought he had succeeded. "Now when my amiable friend from Aiken," he continued, "got up the other day and told of the high plane on which elections are conducted in his county, I felt proud that there was one senator for whom he had such a constituency. The senator from Newberry made me doubly proud by expressing the same high confidence in the people of his county. The senator from Dorchester following these two gentlemen, however, told a different story. He told how the fair name of the young county was besmirched with fraud in the very first election held in it. This measure is not designed for the protection of such counties as Aiken and Newberry, where fraud and corruption were never needed for such stringent rules. Besides, the bill would add to the expenses of holding primaries for copies of the registration books, which simply took the place of the club rolls, would have to be made. Aside from the monetary considerations it was hard enough to get the people to turn out to the polls and with the enactment of such stringent rules it would be harder still to get them out.

Mr. Pettigrew thought the bill would tend to place our government in the hands of the few.

The vote resulted in the bill being defeated, 28 to 8, only Senators Aldrich, Archer, Buist, DuBois, Mayfield, McCall, Miller, and Norris voting for it.

Mr. Connor called up his bill to regulate the manufacture, inspection, advertisement and sale of commercial fertilizers and to reduce the privilege tax from 25 to 10 cents.

Debate was started by Mr. McDaniel amending so as to leave the privilege tax at 25 cents.

Mr. Connor declared that the tax was paid by the farmer and that the fund derived thereby went to the support of Clemson college there was more than enough for this purpose. He read from speeches made prior to 1890 by both Mr. Tillman and Mr. McCall and showed that each had declared that \$100,000 would suffice to establish and equip the college and \$30,000 per annum be sufficient to run it. If that amount would maintain Clemson, he affirmed a privilege tax of 10 cents would yield sufficient revenue. "If that be the case, then let us not save to the farmer the State the extra 15 cents per ton," he asked.

Mr. Norris replied and declared that this question of Clemson had been declared for almost unanimously in 1890 and had been overwhelmingly sustained since. He did not think it right to make curtailment of expenses at this time and before such a move was made thought the people should be permitted to pass on it at the ballot box. He declared Clemson was doing excellent work and stated that were the revenue of the college left intact a textile department would be added without any additional appropriation. But before making this reduction he asked that the senators leave it to the people next year.

A vote on Mr. McDaniel's motion to leave the privilege tax at 25 cents resulted in it being agreed to by a vote of 27 to 8.

The other features of the bill were taken up and discussed at length. A number of senators were drawn into the discussion, which differed little from that of last year on the same bill.

The final vote on the passage or rejection of the bill resulted in its defeat by the following yeas and nays:

Yeas—Aldrich, Brown, Buist, Gaines, Griffith, Henderson, Lesse, Mauldin, Mayfield, McCall, Miller, Daniel, Moss, Norris, Sanders, Sloan, Stackhouse, Turner, Walker, Waller, Williams—20.

Nays—Alexander, Archer, Connor, Dean, Dennis, Douglas, DuBois, Hay, Love, McCall, Miller, Mower, O'Dell, Pettigrew, Ragdale, Suddath, Walker—17.

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IN THE HOUSE.

THE PRIMARY ELECTION BILL IS DEFEATED.

Several Other Bills of Importance Taken Up and Considered—Some are Passed and Others are Killed.

The first question to come in the House on Monday, the 24th instant, was Mr. Ashley's primary bill. Mr. Pollock moved to strike out the enacting clause. This brought Mr. Ashley to his feet in defence of his measure. He said that the people wanted one law for the whole State. All officers are the servants of the people from the governor down, and it is a right that should be conceded to them to select such officers. The passage of the bill will be a great relief, also, to the members who have to spend a large part of their time attending to the demands of their constituents to get positions.

Mr. Pollock pointed out that there is a difference between a party nomination and an election by the qualified voters. The Democratic party, which is practically the only one in the State, provides that all its nominees shall be chosen in a primary. The Republican party has no such rule. So far as the provisions in the bill of either party are concerned on this particular subject the legislation has nothing to do. If the members of the House wished to provide for his bill carried out the proper place to have them adopted was the convention of the Democratic party.

Mr. Magill in explaining the action of the committee which had returned the bill to the house without recommendation, said that it was the question of whether the committee thought ought to be considered by the judiciary committee. He, therefore, thought the bill should be recommended and referred to them.

Mr. Rogers could see no good reason for the committee's action. He said the house had refused to pass a bill which would provide for the election of judges by the people. If this bill is passed then every judge will have to receive the nomination in a primary before the legislature could act. He thought the bill was a good one and that it would stand its ground.

Mr. Toole thought the bill a good one and that it would stand its ground. He did not believe that the bill contained any dangerous features.

The bill was passed by a vote of 51 to 47. Later in the day some doubt was expressed as to the correctness of the vote, and the bill was called, but the result was the same.

The bill of Mr. McCall came up to incorporate the Stevens Railroad and Mr. Burns offered an amendment requiring the road to go to the town of Walhalla. In the bill the route of the road is generally laid out, but Mr. Burns held that his amendment should be incorporated in the bill because it was the case that these roads went near towns, but really left them in the lurch. He said the general scope of the bill was to have the road pass through Walhalla, but he wanted it definitely stated.

Mr. Gadsden said that Edgeland, Saluda and a dozen other places might ask to be put in if Walhalla was to be put in. Require the builders to go to all these places and they would stop up the road. The house rejected the amendment and the bill passed.

Mr. Gadsden's resolution providing for adjournment on February 12 being reached, the author declared it by saying that the people demanded an early adjournment. There are many bills on the calendar which must be pressed with and the legislature should decide when it will adjourn and work up to that.

Capt. Blythe spoke against the resolution and referred to the commendable zeal displayed by the legislature to work in his judgment they should be content to let the bill pass. He said he did not believe it advisable to force an adjournment at any particular time. Let us work and get through with the work we are sent here to do. But if we must adjourn at any certain date it will force us to leave the State. The house adjourned until February 10.

Mr. Rogers moved to postpone the debate on the measure until February 10.

Mr. Gadsden then moved to lay that on the table, which was adopted.

This seemed to indicate that the resolution was about to pass, but the bill was killed.

Mr. Hyde's bill to amend the law relative to the punishment for marriage caused much discussion. It provides that the punishment shall be for a period not exceeding three years and a fine of not more than \$100. The bill was passed by a vote of 51 to 47.

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HE IS TO BE COMPTROLLER GENERAL INSTEAD OF MR. EPTON.

The Vote Was a Very Close One—Messrs. Hazelden and Cooper Elected Members of State Board of Control—New State Prison Directors.

Both branches of the Legislature met in joint assembly on Wednesday to elect certain officials. It was exactly 12:05 p. m. when Lieut. Gov. McSwain called the joint assembly to order.

The vote for United States senator taken in the two houses the preceding day was canvassed in the usual manner and then the president of the senate declared that the Hon. John L. McLaughlin had been duly elected United States senator for the unexpired term of the Hon. Joseph H. Eads. The vote was 135 for McLaughlin and 1 for George W. Murray.

Nominations for the office of comptroller general to fill the unexpired term of Congressman Norton were then declared in order.

Hydriock of Spartanburg rose and said:

Mr. President, it affords me great pleasure to nominate for this important position one of my fellow citizens of the county of Spartanburg, the Hon. Leland P. Epton, who coming from the body of his people, filled the office of county auditor for that county for six years with such distinguished efficiency as to command him to the favorable consideration of his excellency the governor, when called upon to fill this responsible office by appointment. I trust that this general assembly will endorse and ratify the excellent choice of the governor. The fact that Gen. Epton has invariably been honored by the people of his county by handsome majorities; whenever he sought honor by their suffrages, shows that he is worthy to fill this position. He is a man of high character and of the highest integrity. I submit that, with her 3,000 Democratic votes, she is entitled to representation in the executive family of the State.

Senator Dean of Greenville seconded the nomination in well chosen words. He said that the general assembly should set its seal upon the selection of the chief executive and elect this man who had so often been honored by his own people.

By this time the galleries were well filled with spectators, and downstairs the floor doors of visitors were displaying the keenest interest in the proceedings.

Senator Scarborough of Horry rose and first quaffed a glass of water, proceeded to nominate a State Senator J. P. Derham in a well-rounded speech. Mr. Scarborough said he considered it his duty to nominate the first man to stand on the hustings on this floor and present for a State office a man from Horry county. He presented the name of one eminently qualified to fill the office. Horry had been faithful always to the State, but he had not been faithful to the people. He had been faithful to the State, but he had not been faithful to the people. He had been faithful to the State, but he had not been faithful to the people.

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